

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,  
WING HEADQUARTERS BUILDING  
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2750)  
Arizona Avenue  
Plattsburgh  
Clinton County  
New York

HAER No. NY-326-CM

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
Philadelphia Support Office  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

# HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

## PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE WING HEADQUARTERS BUILDING (Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2750)

HAER No. NY-326-CM

**Location:** Arizona Avenue, Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York.

UTM: 18.622480.4945320  
Quad: Plattsburgh, NY-VT, 1:24,000 (1966)

**Date of Construction:** 1957

**Architect:** Unknown

**Present Owner:** United States Air Force

**Present Use:** Vacant

**Significance:** The Wing Headquarters Building contained 10,524 square feet of wing headquarters space and 4,356 square feet of Air Force command post space. The wing headquarters space accommodated the staff offices of the headquarters for the 380th Bomber Wing (BW). The Air Force command post space provided secure command, control, and communications facilities for the control and direction of the assigned aircraft, and for communication with other Strategic Air Command (SAC) installations, including SAC Headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base (AFB), Nebraska.

**Project Information:** Building No. 2750 at Plattsburgh AFB is being documented in accordance with HAER standards to mitigate for the potential adverse effects of transferring deed of title to the property from federal ownership. The property transfer is a result of the disposal and reuse of Plattsburgh AFB, pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1993. The mitigation is a stipulation of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the U.S. Air Force, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (October 2000).

Michael Pumphrey  
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1461 East Cooley Drive  
Colton, CA 92324

### Summary Description of Wing Headquarters Building (Building No. 2750)

#### **Layout**

Building No. 2750 is a 15,177 square-foot, two-story, reinforced concrete block building. It is rectangular in plan and has a flat roof with minimal overhangs. Its front (west) elevation is symmetrical, with a centered entry having a projecting, flat-roofed canopy at the ground floor ceiling line level. Two-over-two, double-hung, wood sash windows with precast concrete sills are equally spaced along this wall, and are the typical window unit employed throughout the building. Building No. 2750 and Building No. 2760 (Education Center) are almost identical in construction and appearance.

#### **Alterations/Additions**

There was a two-story, concrete block addition made to the north façade of Building No. 2750 in 1985. Otherwise, there have been no other major additions or alterations made to the building.

#### **Function**

Building No. 2750 housed the staff offices for the operational wing and contained classified briefing and communications rooms.

#### **Significance**

The end of World War II saw the beginning of hostile relations between the Soviet Union and the United States, based on differing social, economic, and political views. As this "Cold War" escalated, the United States instituted a policy of containment, which called for a "peaceful" blocking of the expansion of Soviet political and economic influence. Nuclear weapons, which had also developed at the end of World War II, held a significant place in this conflict, but it was theorized that an American nuclear capability, if strong enough, could deter unwanted Soviet expansion.

On March 21, 1946, SAC was organized as one of the three new major commands in a reorganized Army Air Force. SAC was considered the "big stick" of U.S. National military strength, and was given the responsibility of delivering the atomic weapons. With the motto "peace is our profession" SAC was the physical realization of America's deterrence theory.

The newly established Air Force (established in 1947) embarked upon an expansive Cold War building program to make SAC operable. Air Force bases designated specifically for SAC were identified (or newly constructed) and became the exceptional instrument in SAC's mission of posing a significant deterrent to enemy aggression. Specially designed facilities were constructed at each of these installations, among which would have to be counted the Wing Headquarters Building, Building No. 2750.

Building No. 2750 at Plattsburgh AFB was constructed in 1957 to provide the essential administrative and conferencing facilities necessary to implement and direct the overall SAC mission. It was in this

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,  
WING HEADQUARTERS BUILDING  
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2750)  
HAER No. NY-326-CM  
(Page 3)

capacity that Building No. 2750 was vital to the SAC Cold War mission.

**Drawings**

Copies of as-built drawings for the Wing Headquarters Building, Building No. 2008, are archived at:

Air Force Historical Research Agency/ISA  
600 Chennault Circle  
Maxwell Air Force Base, AL 36112-6424

**Sources**

Tetra Tech, Inc.

1995 *Survey of Cold War-Era Buildings and Structures at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Clinton County, New York.* Prepared for the U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

United States Air Force

1959 Plattsburgh Air Force Base Real Property Accountable Record (1959-1989).

United States Air Force

1991 *Peace ... is our Profession: Alert Operations and the Strategic Air Command, 1957-1991.* Office of the Historian, Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

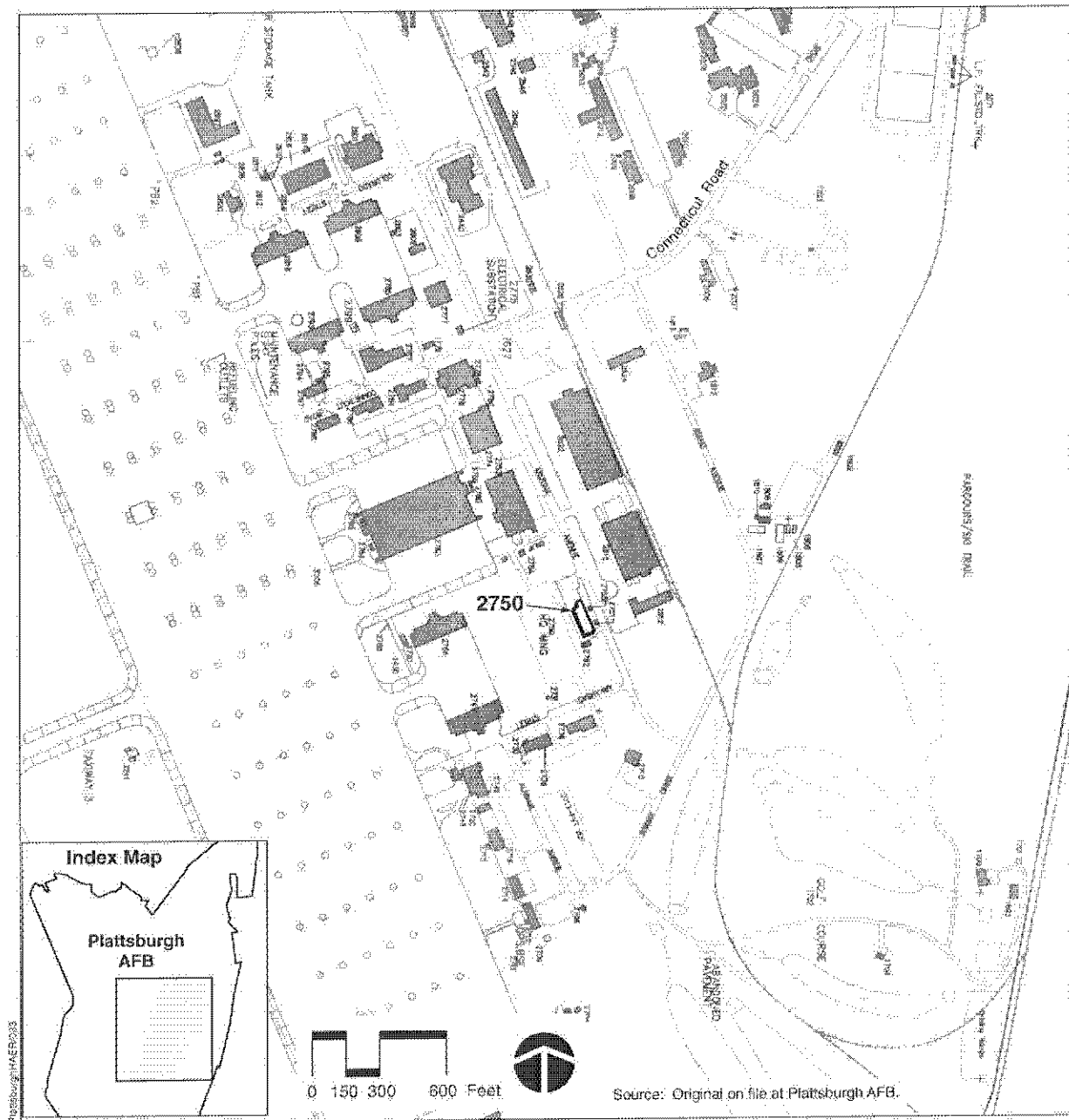
United States Air Force

2000 Plattsburgh Air Force Base Real Property Inventory Detail List.

U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence

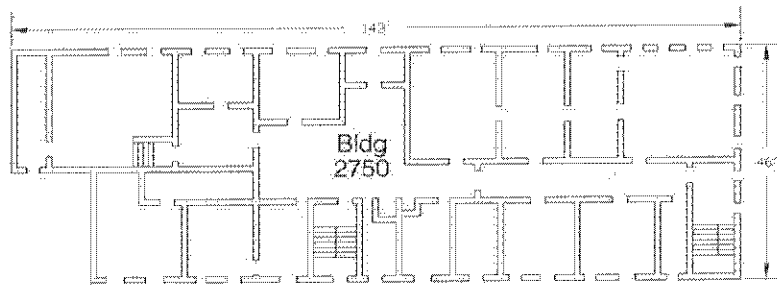
1998 *Draft Historic Building Inventory and Evaluation Plattsburgh Air Force Base New York,* Volumes I and II, June.

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE  
WING HEADQUARTERS BUILDING  
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2750)  
HAER No. NY-326-CM (Page 4)



Location Map for Wing Headquarters Building, Building No. 2750  
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PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,  
WING HEADQUARTERS BUILDING  
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2750)  
HAER No. NY-326-CM  
(Page 5)

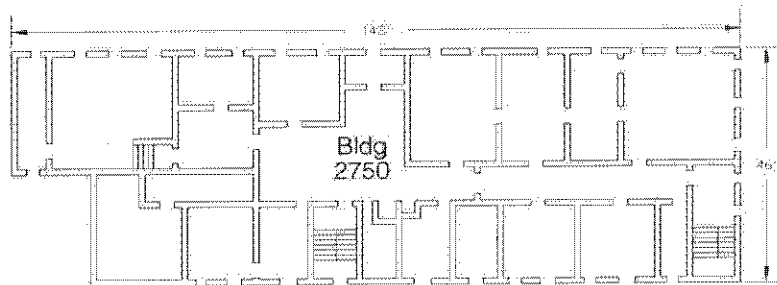


First Floor Plan

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Arizona Avenue

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Second Floor Plan



Sketch not to Scale

SKETCH PLAN – WING HEADQUARTERS BUILDING – FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS  
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2750)  
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca 2000)  
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